

Wabash County Board of Commissioners Minutes for February 2, 2026

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, February 2, 2026. Tyler Niccum, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00am with all three Commissioners present: Jeff D. Dawes, Cheryl Ross, Tyler Niccum. The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

The minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cheryl Evenson, Clerk, presented an estimate from Miller Moving Service to move the election equipment for the Primary and General Election. Evenson indicated that she could not use the movers that she used during the last election as they have downsized. She stated that there are seven (7) vote centers and the equipment needs to be delivered to each voting center the day before and picked up the day after the Election days. She will be forwarding the contract to Mark Frantz to make the necessary changes. Dawes made a motion to approve the estimate from Miller Moving Service. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Reappointment of the Redevelopment Commission Todd Minnich, Tyler Niccum, and Shelly Bauccho. Ross made a motion to accept the reappointments. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

A change order from DNE Construction in the amount of \$9,950.00 was presented. Ross reported that the change form includes several items that needed added for the new Health Department project. She indicated that they are hoping to have the carpet installed in March and moving in sometime towards the end of the first quarter. Dawes made a motion to approve the change order. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Beverly Ferry, Living Well of Wabash County, presented their year-end report and the Quarter 4 Claim. Ferry indicated that the claim to INDOT is for \$48,263.00. She also reported that they have went down to four days due to lack of drivers. Transit is facing challenges in finding drivers, they have radio and Facebook ads and are putting fliers around town and on pizza boxes at Goodfellows.

Alex Downard, Daniel's Place, came before the Commissioners to get a conditional approval for construction contract. Hamilton Hunter from Fort Wayne was the low bid in the amount of \$2.7 million. Ross made a motion to approve the construction contract, subject to review from Counsel and OCRA. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Downard presented the sub-recipient agreement for Daniel's Place, pending review from Counsel. Ross made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department, presented the Wabash County Jail report for January, 2026. The average total prisoner county, 126; average female prisoner count, 30; average male prison count, 94; number of prisoners booked into Jail, 79; average number of bookings per month, 79; Level 6 felony sentenced females on 12/31/25, 5; Level 6 felony sentenced males on 12/31/25, 10; prisoner transports, 19; males transported to IDOC, 8; females transported to IDOC, 0; DNA collected from arrested felons, 36; misdemeanor fingerprints as ordered by the Court, 1; and 1 inmate housed outside of the County.

In addition, Guenin asked for permission to purchase three (3) vehicles for the Wabash County Sheriff's Department. Guenin indicated that there is money in the Sheriff's Department's budget to purchase the vehicles and that the Sheriff is checking with the bank to decide whether they want to lease or buy the vehicles outright. He indicated that they are looking to purchase three (3) Durango's. One of the vehicles being a 2025 Dodge Durango (\$43,431.50) and the other two being 2026 Dodge Durango's (\$44,256.50 each). He noted that they have some Chargers that are higher in mileage and they are looking to move on from them. Niccum asked if the price included outfitting and Guenin stated no, that the price is just for the vehicles. Dawes made to motion to approve the purchases. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Coordinator:

1. Presented an amended contract with Koorsen for the fire sprinkler system at the new Jail. Shepherd indicated that they original contract signed in 2024 and it was a 2-year contract and the fire sprinkler system was to be inspected once per year. Since then, the Fire Marshal inspector noted that the system should be inspected quarterly, per Indiana Code. The amendment states that the fire sprinkler system must be inspected four (4) times per year. The difference to the contract is \$1,894. Dawes made a motion to accept the amended contract. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Presented an estimate with Jones Contracting for a new HVAC unit for the Assessor's office, in the amount of \$33,981.66. Shepherd noted that the Assessor's office system has been down. Shepherd further noted that she has spoken with the Auditor and it has already been budgeted. Ross and Niccum asked if the list of HVAC units was done, Shepherd said that Greg was working the list of HVAC units with the age of the units. Niccum said it feels like for a year we have been replacing a unit every month. He would like the list. Dawes made a motion to accept the estimate. Ross seconded the motion but said she would like a second quote in the future; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Presented two (2) rental agreements for the use of 808 Manchester Avenue. The first date was January 31, 2026, and the next date is scheduled for April 11, 2026. Ross made a motion to approve the agreements. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Shepherd asked if she needed to present contracts if the building was used by a county department; Frantz said it was not necessary.

Shelly Baucio, Wabash County Auditor presented:

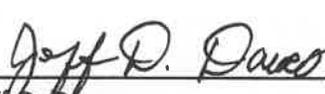
1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 01/26/2026 and 02/02/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 01/17/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. The February LIT Distribution to be disbursed to the taxing units, in the amount of \$1,411,943.16. Ross made a motion to approve the February LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

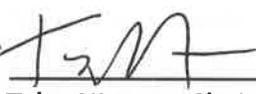
Niccum asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns, none were heard.

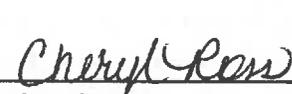
The Commissioners reviewed the following: IDEM – Midwest Poultry Permit application; and IDEM – City of Wabash Final Permit; 15 letters in support of Carbon Capture and Sequestration and 15 letters in Opposed to Carbon Capture and Sequestration.

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person*: Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Conner Hindman, Kimberly Lundmark, Dave Nelson, Cole Watt, Ryan Smith, Tenille Zartman and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Connie, phone, bhegel, Theda Metzger, Laci, Lgrandstaff, bswihart, Amanda Shambarger, Rich Mofield and AKline.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

Attest: 
Shelly Baucio, Wabash County Auditor